

HB1196 – Sec14

To The GAE Committee and those I hope it concerns.

It is with deep regret that I could not attend today's hearing and speak on the possible State of CT and private business owner land swap in Haddam. For simplicity I will supply a list of reasons why I think this trade should take place and also one of why it should NOT.

Let's begin with why it should NOT. The first and most obvious is ethics. From everything I can find the land conveyance bill is meant to transfer small parcels of land that would for various reasons benefit municipalities and their infrastructure. Police/fire department could use a slice of state land for an addition. The lot next to the school has been empty for years and the school could use it. A closed state building is sitting dormant on property originally donated by the town which could now make use of it etc. I find it, and I am sure a judge of sound mind would also, totally unethical for any department or representative of the state to consider swapping land that was purchased for the purpose of open space with someone who would consider building on it to increase their profit margin.

I am sure some would find this to be tangerines and bananas but the state of CT does not have a very good track record when it comes to land use issues. I will not list all the numbers to bore you but let's not forget the large number of acres that now lie barren in New London. These being from the homes taken from life long residents for the promise of an up tic in employment and a more lucrative return in tax dollars. How is that working out?

Folks keep saying the properties will have to be appraised by the state. Are these same people aware of the over 23 million dollars the states appraisal of a quarry in Brookfield recently cost CT taxpayers? Just what is a good view of possibly the most picturesque location in CT really worth?

Not that it should even matter but for those who think it does, it would draw millions in an open auction, but the point is moot as it has been purchased and sold with the caveat of being open space. As by law it should remain.

It should be noted our former Governor Jodie Rell herself found it appropriate to put such a ridiculous land swap off, this causing legitimate land transfers to be delayed. This could have come across as a Republican Governor stepping on the toes of Democrat senator Eileen Daily but to the rescue of reality comes Democrat Jamie Spallone. A staunch Daily supporter he chaired the hearing on the subject and found no reason why this trade should take place.

This has been going on for a few years now and as Rocco testified at last years hearing and in a Courant article on 3/9/11 he has no plan. Why in Gods world would anyone with an ounce of common sense consider giving up some of the

most precious land we own and take a stand to give this man with out a plan our land? Excuse my Johnnie Cochran.

I would say this would set a precedent for hundreds of years to come, but I am sure all of our most precious lands would be flipped much sooner. I'll stop here for now. As promised, below you will find my reasons for why I feel this swap should take place.

In advance I thank you for taking the time to read and consider my point of view on this subject. I also ask that those who take their position seriously to please take the political hat off for a mere 60 seconds. One minute and with this consider how you would feel if you or a relative were fortunate enough to own land that could be donated or sold at a reasonable price to be preserved. That and in a short time the dream of where your piece of the planet went to. That being to those whose only dreams involve dollar signs.

Regards,

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